

Replacement Drawings:

Please replace all the Drawing Sheets as originally filed with the Replacement Sheets attached to this Amendment.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-18 remain pending in the present application, including independent claims 1, 10, and 18. As shown above, claims 1-3, 10, 13, and 18 have been amended.

Replacement Sheets for the drawings are provided along with this amendment, as required by the Office Action. Applicants note that the reference numerals referred to in the specification are included. Also, Applicants have renumbered the Figures to be consistent with the written specification. Specifically, original Fig. 1 has been renumbered to Fig. 2; original Fig. 2 has been renumbered to Fig. 1; original Fig. 3 has been renumbered to Fig. 5; original Fig. 4 has been renumbered to Fig. 3; and original Fig. 5 has been renumbered to Fig. 4. Applicants also note that mounting apertures 68 on Fig. 5 has been included in the Figure (though not shown on original Fig. 4) to correspond to the written description of the mounting apertures 68 on pg. 7, paragraph 30. No new matter has been added in the replacement sheets.

In the Office Action, claim 3 was objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. As shown above, claim 3 has been amended and the portion objected to has been deleted. Thus, Applicants submit that the objection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is moot.

Also in the Office Action, claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,523,403 to Ivy, et al. Ivy, et al. discloses a foldable frame for receiving and supporting fishing poles. However, Ivy, et al. fails to disclose a number of the limitations required by independent claim 1. First, Ivy, et al. does not disclose a

plate having a pair of T-shaped engagement members on the ends thereof. The Office Action apparently cites the angular bar 27 hinged at its opposite ends to the inclined legs (see, Fig. 1, Fig. 5, and Col. 2, lines 15-17) as teaching a T-shaped engagement member. However, Applicants respectfully disagree with this interpretation of Ivy, et al. Nowhere does Ivy, et al. disclose or suggest that the hinges on bar 27 be T-shaped.

Furthermore, the Office Action cites Fig. 5 as disclosing that bar 27 is slideably positioned along the U-shaped member. However, Ivy, et al. only discloses that bar 27 is attached to the frame member 11 via rivots at end 28. This type of attachment would not allow the bar 27 to slide along frame member 11. In fact, Ivy, et al. completely fails to disclose or even suggest that the bar 27 is slideably positioned along the frame members 11. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 10, and 18 are not anticipated by Ivy, et al.

Claims 1, 8-10, 12, and 15-18 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,696, 122 to Van Der Zyl. Van Der Zyl discloses an apparatus that includes a frame with a first clip for holding a lower portion of a fishing rod and a second clip attached to a frame for holding an upper portion of the fishing rod. See, i.e., Abstract. However, Van Der Zyl fails to teach or even suggest that the plate has a pair of T-shaped engagement members located on opposite ends thereof such that the T-shaped engagement members are located in the slots to be slideably positioned along the rails, as required by independent claims 1, 10, and 18. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 10, and 18 are not anticipated by Van Der Zyl.

Applicants also respectfully submit that for at least the reasons indicated above relating to corresponding independent claims, the pending dependent claims patentably define over the references cited. However, Applicants also note that the patentability of the dependent claims certainly does not hinge on the patentability of independent claims. In particular, it is believed that some or all of these claims may possess features that are independently patentable, regardless of the patentability of the independent claims.

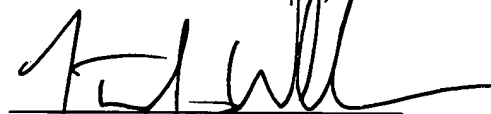
For at least the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the present application is in complete condition for allowance and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Examiner Parsley is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned, however, should any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

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Respectfully submitted,

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.



Tim F. Williams
Registration No.: 47,178

Alan R. Marshall
Registration No.: 56,405

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.
P.O. Box 1449
Greenville, SC 29602-1449
Phone: (864) 271-1592
Facsimile: (864) 233-7342